

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7971

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

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AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1317

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR TU UN

SUBJ: POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 32754 (B) STATE 30056 (C) ANKARA 1240

1. WITH REFERENCE TO THE REQUEST IN PARA 4 REF B, WE HAVE
GATHERED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING (A) THE COSTS OF
SHIPPING POPPY STRAW (NOT RPT NOT COMPRESSED) FROM IZMIR TO AMSTERDAM;

AND (B) THE COST OF TRUCKING STRAW (NOT RPT NOT COMPRESSED)
FROM AFYON TO IZMIR. THE FIGURES WERE OBTAINED FROM
PRIVATE COMPANIES INVOLVED IN SHIPPING THE POPPY STRAW IN PREVIOUS
YEARS AND REPRESENT ESTIMATED COSTS AT THE PRESENT TIME:

A. IZMIR-AMSTERDAM: \$125 PER TON FOR BULK SHIPMENTS.

B. AFYON-IZMIR: EP-35 KURUS PER KILO, I.E., A MAXIMUM
OF \$25.27 PER TON (100 KURUS - 1 TL).

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THE OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE OPIUM DIVISION OF THE SOIL

PRODUCTS OFFICE (TMO) CANNOT BE OBTAINED WITHOUT ASKING
TMO OFFICIALS.

2. REGARDING THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK ON THE PRICE-TO-FARMER
PROBLEM (PARA 2 REF B), WE GENERALLY CONCUR WITH THE VIEWS SET
FORTH BY DEPARTMENT, AND WISH TO ADD THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC
COMMENTS:

A. BASED ON OUR CONTACTS WITH POPPY FARMERS AND FIELD
OFFICIALS OF GOT AGENCIES IN THE OPOOY GROWING REGION, OUR
IMPRESSION IS THAT A PRICE IN THE RANGE OF 12 TO 15 TL PER KILO
(AS MENTIONED IN REF B) WOULD BE A REASONABLE PRICE TO THE
FARMER. HOWEVER, THIS IMPRESSION IS NOT RPT NOT CALCULATED
ON THE BASIS OF A FORMULA, BUT RATHER IT IS BASED ON THE
RESPONSES OF FARMERS AND GOT OFFICIALS WHEN ASKED WHAT THEY
THOUGHT AN ACCEPTABLE PRICE WOULD BE.

B. WE AGREE THAT THE UN SHOULD APPROACH THE TURKS ON
THE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION TO THE FARMERS AS A CONTINGENCY
ARRANGEMENT ONLY, IN THE EVENT THE WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR
TURKISH POPPY STRAW DOES NOT RPT NOT PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY
PRICE TO THE FARMER PLUS NORMAL COSTS OF COLLECTION AND MARKETING.
WE SHARE THE VIEW THAT THE CONCEPT OF THE "VALUE OF LABOR LOST"
SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE FORMULA FOR COMPENSATION.
TRADITIONALLY, MOST LANCING WAS DONE BY FARMERS AND THEIR
FAMILIES, AND NO WAGES WERE PAID. PRESUMABLY, RETURN TO
FARMERS FROM POPPY STRAW PRODUCTION WILL BE AT LEAST EQUIVALENT
TO INCOME FROM OPIUM PRODUCTION, EVEN THOUGH LABOR INPUT
WILL BE LESS. THEREFORE, TO PAY COMPENSATION TO FARMERS
FOR THEIR LABOR WHICH WAS NOT RPT NOT EXPENDED APPEARS TO US TO BE
BASED ON FALLACIOUS REASONING.

C. AS STATED IN REF C, WE BELIEVE THE UN SHOULD DEVELOP
ITS OWN FORMULA AND TAKE IT TO THE TURKS AS A BASIS FOR
DISCUSSION, AND THAT THIS SHOULD BE DONE SOONEST.
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